

I oppose this measure and I urge you to vote against it. The fact that the decision was not delayed to receive additional commentary is extremely disturbing. Further, the fact that this issue has not been more widely covered and debated in the media is ample evidence, in my opinion, that concentrated media ownership is stifling public debate. I do not believe that this is the result of any conspiracy. Rather, it is the very nature of the current level of concentrated ownership and the self-censoring of journalists and editorial staff that occurs as a result.

A media culture should be diverse, energetic, and should always question-- the lack of such in our current media is symptomatic of the degree of concentration that has already occurred and its negative impact on the quality of coverage we currently obtain.

As a Republican, college-educated, upper-middle class woman, I would like you to know that this issue is not only being opposed by those with a liberal agenda. It is not a political issue but an ideological one that is fundamental to American ideals and our right to make informed choices.

I also disagree that this is a decision that is necessary to insure the economic viability of individual stations and I think this justification is weakly defended; I have yet to see a rigorous argument supported by any real data.

I urge you to delay this vote in order that the American public can be more fully informed of the issues and ramifications of this very critical change in policy.